

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AID-20 SR-02 ORM-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 SPM-01

EUR-25 EA-11 /158 W

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R 311110Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 802

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 7243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: ASSISTANCE IN TRANSFER OF BENGALLEES AND BIHARIS
UNDER AUGUST 28 AGREEMENT

REF:DACCA 3925

1. WE NOTE PRIMIN MUJIB'S FORMAL APPEAL TO PRESIDENT
FOR LOGISTIC SUPPORT IN EXCHANGES OF BENGALLEES AND
BIHARIS UNDER TERMS OF AUGUST 28 INDO-PAK AGREEMENT.
GOP, DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED WITH FLOOD DISASTER, HAS NOT
YET MADE SIMILAR REQUEST BUT WE EXPECT ONE WILL BE
FORTHCOMING.

2. ALTHOUGH AGREEMENT PROVIDES THAT BDG WILL BE
RESPONSIBLE FOR REPATRIATION OF BENGALLEES FROM PAKISTAN
AND GOP FOR MOVEMENT OF BIHARIS FROM BANGLADESH, BOTH
OPERATIONS PRESUMABLY WILL BE COMBINED INTO SINGLE
OVER-ALL LOGISTIC PLAN UTILIZING SAME
CARRIERS (SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT) OPERATING SHUTTLE TO
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TRANSPORT ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT NUMBER OF BENGALLEES AND

BIHARIS TO THEIR DESTINATIONS. WE ASSUME THAT OUTSIDE LOGISTIC AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS WILL BE DESTINED FOR SUPPORT OF THIS COORDINATED OPERATION WHETHER IT IS CHanneled THROUGH DACCA, ISLAMABAD OR APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL BODY.

3. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT QUESTION OF US ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING TRANSFER OF THESE GROUPS HAS COME UP BEFORE. IN RESPONSE INQUIRY FROM LOCAL ICRC REP IN FEBRUARY 1973, DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZED US TO TELL ICRC THAT USG WAS WILLING IN PRINCIPLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO COST OF REPATRIATING SOME THOUSANDS OF BENGALLEES IN PAKISTAN PROVIDED OUR CONTRIBUTION WAS PART OF GENUINE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT (STATE 26145, ISLAMAD 1287).

4. WE BELIEVE SIMILAR POSITIVE US RESPONSE TO ADMITTEDLY FAR LARGER OPERATION SPECIFIED BY AUGUST 28 AGREEMENT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST. ASSUME DEPARTMENT WOULD WISH CONSULT WITH APPROPRIATE UN AGENCIES (INCLUDING HCR) ON ROLE WE MIGHT PLAY. BELIEVE ANY STATEMENT WE MAKE THIS SUBJECT SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE APPLY TO MOVEMENT IN BOTH DIRECTIONS BETWEEN BD AND PAKISTAN.
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